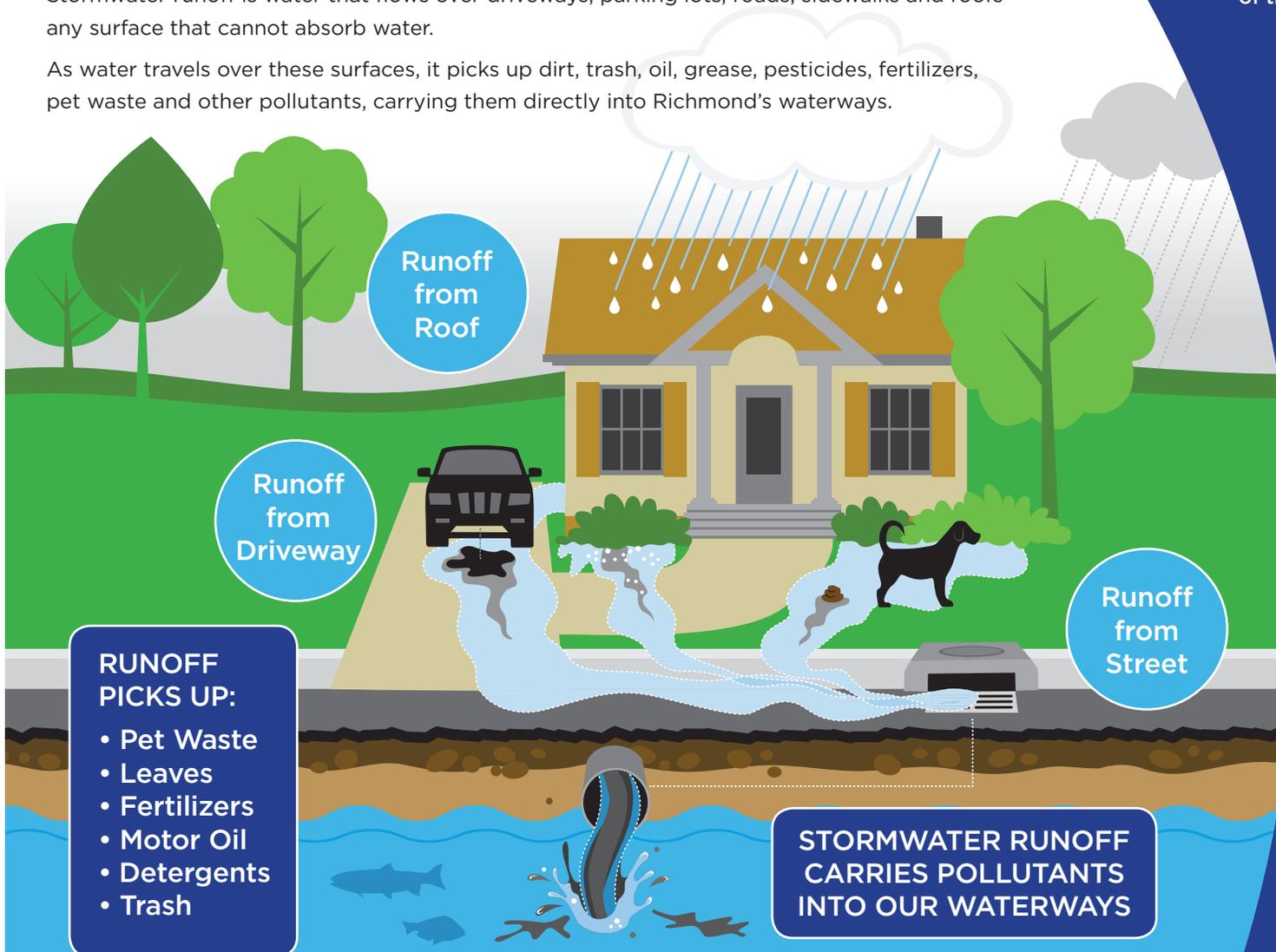




UNDERSTANDING STORMWATER

Stormwater runoff is water that flows over driveways, parking lots, roads, sidewalks and roofs – any surface that cannot absorb water.

As water travels over these surfaces, it picks up dirt, trash, oil, grease, pesticides, fertilizers, pet waste and other pollutants, carrying them directly into Richmond’s waterways.



What goes into our drains doesn’t just affect the James River – it affects all of Richmond. At the Department of Public Utilities, we see the benefits of stormwater management every day – better water, a better environment and better health. Here are some of the ways our work with stormwater helps:

Water Quality Improvement

By working to reduce stormwater pollution that contains bacteria, we help improve the water quality of the James River and other Richmond waterways.

Pollution Prevention

Stormwater management helps keep water safe for both drinking and swimming, while reducing fish kills caused by algae blooms.

Flood Prevention

By making sure stormwater drains aren’t clogged with leaves and other debris, we prevent flooding on personal property and reduce pollution, along with the odors it causes and pests it attracts.

Drain Upkeep and Maintenance

We inspect and clear Richmond’s storm drains while looking for ways to utilize new “green” technologies that will help deliver clean water for our city’s future.

Managing stormwater runoff can help bring cleaner water faster to all of Richmond.



FIVE WAYS WE CAN BRING CLEANER WATER FASTER TO ALL OF RICHMOND:

1 ONLY RAIN IN THE DRAIN

When stormwater reaches your storm drain, it isn't alone. Fertilizers, motor oil, pet waste and litter can all come along for the ride.

Do your part to limit the waste that rides with the rain and help keep Richmond's water clean for drinking, swimming and fishing.

2 HELP CURB POLLUTION

Take a look at the curbs and gutters near your home. Everything you see near them – grass clippings, leaves and other yard waste – can clog up storm drains, causing unnecessary flooding and pollution.

It's best to compost yard waste, leave it on your lawn or place it in a proper container for curbside pickup. Always put trash in a waste receptacle or recycling bin.

3 FERTILIZE ONLY IN THE FALL

Fertilizers applied on land can run off directly into Richmond water sources. The result? Thick algae, cloudy water and even dead fish.

Have your soil tested to know the right amount and type of fertilizer for your soil, and do your part to reduce the amount of fertilizers and pesticides used on your lawn.

4 PICK UP THE POOP

15% of all bacteria in our water comes from pet waste, which can carry harmful disease.* Pet waste left behind on streets and in yards, driveways and parks is NOT fertilizer. Without proper treatment, it's just bacteria, and that bacteria can end up in our water supply.

Always pick up after your pet, whether you're at home or away.

*James River Bacteria DMTL, Dec. 2010

5 KNOW YOUR HHW

Household hazardous waste (HHW) is material that can harm our environment when not handled properly. Common HHW includes pesticides, cleaners, paints, solvents and electrical devices.

Help reduce HHW by checking warning labels before you buy and disposing of HHW products properly.

The East Richmond Road Convenience Center at 3800 E. Richmond Rd. accepts household hazardous waste from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays and from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Learn more! Find helpful hints at RVAH2O.org.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says that stormwater is the number one source of surface water pollution in the nation.



One quart of oil can pollute **250,000 gallons** of water.

Over **64,000 square miles** of land drain into the James River and the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.



Each year, **1.2 trillion gallons** of untreated sewage, stormwater and waste are dumped into U.S. waterways.

